

III. REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19-22, 24-25, 28-30 and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Amro (US 5,515,486), claims 13, 23 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Amro, and claims 3, 4, 8, 18, 26, 27, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Amro in view of Bartlett (US 6,573,883) for reasons set forth in the Action.

The independent claims 1, 14 and 24 are amended to emphasize a feature of the invention, so as to distinguish the present invention from the cited art, considered individually and in combination. This is believed to overcome the foregoing rejections and to secure allowable subject matter in the claims in view of the foregoing argument.

In accordance with the feature of the invention inserted by the amendment into the independent claims, the indicated association of pieces of information exclusively to visible facets of the presented polyhedron is disclosed in original claim 6. Claim 6 is canceled in view of the inclusion of its subject matter in claim 1, and similarly, claims 16 and 29 are canceled in view of the inclusion of their subject matter respectively in claims 14 and 24.

With respect to the inserted feature of the invention, a further aspect of the present invention is the provision of the capability for rotation of only the visible facets as is disclosed on page 5, 1st paragraph of the specification.

The foregoing feature of the present invention is distinguishable from the teachings of the prior art for the reasons set forth in the following argument.

Amro relates to directing a computer system to display a multi-axis rotatable, polyhedral-shaped panel container having front panels for displaying objects {set forth in the Title}.

The approach of Amro can be practiced in a laptop computer or in a computer system shown in Figure 2. (col. 2, lines 60-61). Display 214 displays information to the user, while keyboard 216 and pointing device 218 allow the user to direct the computer system. Referring to Figure 3, a preferred embodiment includes a desktop enhancement for displaying front panel container 300 on display 214. The desktop directs CPU 202 to perform the described functions and features. Front panel container 300 is a three-dimensional polyhedron having multiple front panels 310-334 and others that form the non-visible sides of the polyhedron. Each front panel contains four icons 352 and workspace switches 350. In a preferred embodiment, only the central front panel 322 is active, meaning that only its objects can be activated/opened. In one example, front panel 322 contains four engineering drawing tools. Manipulating and opening objects using pointing devices is indicated to be well known in the computer art. Front panel container 300 enables the user to rotate its panels about four axes. If the user single clicks e.g. over empty space in front panel 330, the desktop rotates front panel 330 to the lower front position of front panel 332. In turn, it rotates front panel 332 to the position of front panel 334, while front panel 334 rotates out of the user's view, (col. 3, lines 14-62).

In an initialization process, the desktop loads a front panel container resource file into RAM 204. The front panel container resource file contains the number of front panels in the front panel container, a default arrangement of those front panels, the number of work-spaces in each front panel, and descriptive information about the objects present in each front panel. A look-up table dynamically maintains the screen coordinates of each front panel and objects within each front panel. When the user rotates the front panel, its coordinates are updated in the look-up table. The desktop retrieves from hard disk 222 any settings saved from the previous session and populates the look-up table with those settings. Accordingly, the desktop changes the default arrangement of the front panels to the previous setting, if any (col. 4, lines 27-59).

The claims are believed to recite subject matter having novelty and being non-obviousness over the teachings of the cited art.

The examiner considered the subject matter of original claim 1 to be disclosed by Amro, and the subject matter of claim 6 (directed to the above noted novel feature of the present invention) to be disclosed by Amro, referring to col. 4, lines 50-59 of Amro.

The position of the examiner is traversed respectfully. Amended claim 1 requires that the processing means associate the pieces of information that are to be presented to a user exclusively to visible facets of the presented polyhedron. Rotating the facets of the polyhedron can be accomplished by a rotation of only the visible facets.

According to Amro, a user may attain a desired constellation of the facets of the polyhedron by rotating the facets. But even if it is assumed from this that the user may cause a distribution of information exclusively to the visible facets, a subsequent rotation will always involve visible and hidden facets. That is, one of the front panels is always rotated out of the user's view (col. 3, line 60; steps 505 and 608 of Figures 5 and 6).

It is an advantage of the approach of present claim 1 (and correspondingly with independent claims 14 and 24) that also after a rotation, the same facets can be visible as before, only with a different distribution. Thus, no piece of information need be hidden after a rotation due to an association to a hidden facet (page 5, 1st paragraph of the present specification).

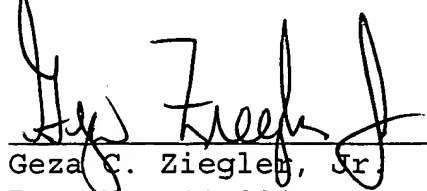
Claims 7, 17 and 30 are amended to conform to the amended claims 1, 14 and 24.

In view of the foregoing amendments and analysis, it is believed that the rejections of the claims have been overcome to provide allowable subject matter in the claims.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,004

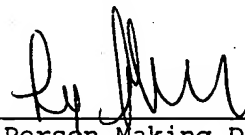
2 August 2005
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Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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